

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 401432

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ALFRED WING KIN CHAN

Application No. Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: October 22, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: PIPE FITTINGS

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LQ
5-24-03

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the indicated claims with:

~~Sub B1~~ 1. (Amended) A pipe fitting comprising a hollow body and at least one open end for connection to a pipe, the open end including internal screw threads for connection to a pipe and an integral extension collar which has an inner diameter larger than an internal diameter of the internal screw threads, for surrounding unused trailing screw threads of a pipe connected to the pipe fitting, for forming an annular gap with a pipe connected to the fitting, and for holding a sealing compound, wherein the collar has a wall thickness comparable to the fitting where the internal screw threads are located, and an outer diameter larger than the fitting where the internal screw threads are located.

2. (Amended) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screw threads are tapered outwards with respect to an axis of the open end.

3. (Amended) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, made of a galvanised iron material.